



CATEX CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES & SENSITIVE RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) DETERMINATION FOR A DENALI COMMISSION PROJECT

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| Program Partner Name Alaska Village Electric Cooperative | | Project Name Minto – LED Replacement and Solar PV Array | |
| Location Minto, Alaska | | Project # 97-29911 | Subproject # |
| Identify Categorical Exclusion The proposed project is identified in the Denali Commission list of categorical exclusions provided in 45 CFR Appendix A to Part 900. The appropriate paragraph number(s) is/are | | B1. Upgrade, repair, maintenance, replacement, or minor renovations and additions to buildings... equipment, and other facilities,... that do not result in a change in the functional use of the real property. | |
| Project Description (2-3 sentences maximum) These projects will optimize electrical consumption to privately owned homes and businesses in Minto. The solar PV array will provide additional electricity to the Lodge. | | | |
| Instructions The information you provide below will assist the Denali Commission in making its determination as to whether a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) is appropriate or further environmental analysis is required for the proposed project. Please place a checkmark in the blank next to the numbered items indicating your response on that issue. A checkmark in the "Yes" block does not automatically preclude the development of the proposed project. It simply means further assessment is needed. Should you have any remarks that may indicate the need to prepare an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), attach a brief explanation of the circumstances for further evaluation. Adverse affects to environmentally sensitive resources must be resolved through another environmental process, e.g., coordination or consultation under the Coastal Zone Management Act or National Historic Preservation Act, before being categorically excluded. Attachments are allowed and encouraged. | | | |

| Extraordinary Circumstances | Determination | | Basis for determination: <i>See attached comments</i> |
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| | Yes | No | |
| 1. Public Health, Safety or Environment Will the proposed project have a reasonably likelihood of significant impacts on public health, public safety, or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project is typical in scope to other Alaska community wide LED lighting upgrades and solar PV array installation on the lodge. The lodge houses the two community government |


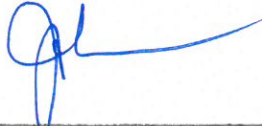
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| | | | offices of the Tribe and the Village Corporation. There will be no impacts to public health, public safety or the environment. |
| 2. Controversy on Environmental Grounds Will the proposed project have effects on the environment that are likely to be highly controversial or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project complies with all applicable laws and requirements with no regulatory approvals required. No environmental impacts will occur. The project is not controversial. |
| 3. Uncertain, Unique or Unknown Risks Will the proposed project have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain, involve unique or unknown risks, or are scientifically controversial? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project does not use methods or material where there are uncertain risks. There will be no impacts. |
| 4. Precedent for Future Action Will the proposed action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project is typical in scope to other Alaska LED replacement projects and solar PV array installations. This project does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions. There are no current or future environmental effects associated with the project. |
| 5. Cumulative Impacts Will the proposed project relate to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The replacement of indoor and outdoor lightbulbs on all privately owned homes and businesses and installation of a small solar PV array on the community owned lodge will not cause cumulative impacts or result in degradation of environmental concerns as outlined in NEPA. |
| 6. Scope and Size Will the proposed project have a greater size and scope than is normal for the category of action? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project does not have a greater size or scope than other rural Alaska LED replacement or solar installation projects. |
| 7. Environmental Conditions Will the proposed project have the potential to degrade already existing poor environmental conditions or to initiate a degrading | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The environmental impacts of the proposed LED replacement and solar PV |

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| influence, activity or effect in areas not already significantly modified from their natural condition? | | | array projects will not impact or degrade the existing environmental conditions or lead to environmental degradation. The projects will benefit the community and environment by increasing energy efficiency of private and community buildings. |
| 8. Environmental Justice Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations? Ref: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The project will benefit the health and environment of the residents and the community as a whole. The project does not have a disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental impact on Tribes, low-income populations or minorities. |
| 9. Indian Sacred Sites Will the proposed project limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites? (EO 13007) <i>"Indian tribe" means an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to Public Law No. 103-454, 108 Stat. 4791, and "Indian" refers to a member of such an Indian tribe. (EO 13007)</i> Ref: Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | See number 12 below. |
| Sensitive Resources | Impact Potential | | Basis for determination: <i>See attached comments</i> |
| | Yes | No | |
| 10. Section 106 Historic Properties Will the proposed project adversely affect properties in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places? Ref: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), as amended. (See 36 CFR 800, Protection of Historic Properties). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None of the facilities included in the scope meet the age criterion for the NRHP and none of them have extraordinary significance. The project scopes are restricted to upgrades to existing light fixtures. |

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| <p>11. Endangered Species Will the proposed project adversely affect species listed, or proposed to be listed on the Endangered or Threatened Species List, or the specific critical habitat?</p> <p>Ref: Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended. (See 50 CFR part 402).</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>There are no Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species or designated Critical Habitat in Minto. The projects</p> |
| <p>12. Historic or Cultural Resources Will the proposed action adversely impact the historic and cultural environment of the Nation?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11593, Protection and enhancement of the cultural environment.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Both project scopes are restricted to upgrades to existing appurtenances on and in the facilities and there is therefore no potential for the work to affect historical structures or other cultural resources located in the vicinities of the buildings.</p> |
| <p>13. Park, Recreation or Refuge Lands Will the proposed project have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on National or State Park, Recreation or Refuge lands?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The Village of Minto is not located in a Park, Recreation or Refuge Lands.</p> |
| <p>14. Wilderness Areas Will the proposed project adversely impact a wilderness area?</p> <p>Ref: Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), as amended.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>This community is not located in or near a wilderness area.</p> |
| <p>15. Wild and Scenic Rivers Is the proposed project a "Water Resources Project" that will impact a wild, scenic or recreational river area and create conditions inconsistent with the character of the river?</p> <p>Ref: Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.), as amended.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The village is located on a bluff above the Tolovana River flats, which contain several lakes formed by the flow of the river through low-lying areas. The Tolovana River is not designated as Wild and Scenic. These projects will not affect Wild and Scenic or recreational rivers.</p> |
| <p>16. National Natural Landmarks Will the proposed project impact a National Natural Landmark?</p> <p>Ref: Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as amended.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Minto is not located in or near a National Natural Landmark.</p> |
| <p>17. Sole Source Aquifers If the proposed action would not have adverse effects on this resource, it may be considered that there is no Impact Potential.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>According to the EPA website, as of 08/05/04,</p> |

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| <p>Ref: Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (42 U.S.C. 201, 300 et seq., and 21 U.S.C. 349), as amended. (See 40 CFR part 149).</p> | | | <p>there are no sole source aquifers in Alaska.</p> |
| <p>18. Prime Farmlands Will the proposed project convert significant agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses?</p> <p>Ref: Farmlands Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), as amended. (See 7 CFR part 658).</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>There are no designated Soils of National or State Importance in Alaska. This project will not convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses.</p> |
| <p>19. Wetlands Will the proposed project adversely affect wetlands or will there be construction in wetlands, except in conformance with a U.S. Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project has been digitally mapped by USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). According to NWI maps and a review of aerial photography, there are wetlands within the Village of Minto, however; these projects will be located within the previously filled areas of the developed boundaries of the community and no wetlands disturbance will occur. A Section 404 and Section 10 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not required.</p> |
| <p>20. Floodplains Will the proposed project involve construction in a floodplain or impact floodplain development?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has not mapped floodplains in the project area. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps are unavailable for the community of Minto. Accordig to USACE, USACE Flood Hazard Database, all of the community is built above the flood elevation. The projects will be within and on existing buildings.</p> |
| <p>21. National Monuments Will proposed project impact a National Monument?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Minto is not located in or near a National Monument.</p> |
| <p>22. Ecologically Significant or Critical Areas Will the proposed project impact an ecologically significant or critical area?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>The project scopes are limited to existing buldings and within the developed areas of the community. There will be no impacts to</p> |

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| | | | ecologically significant or critical areas. |
| 23. Other Known Reasons Is an environmental assessment required for other known reasons? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | An Environmental Assessment is not required. |

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| Additional Comments | | |
| The attached contract outlines the project scopes. The Sub-Cooperative Projects Agreement outlines the project details between Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Minto. | | |
| Based upon the categorical exclusion identified above, this completed checklist and attachments, I certify to the best of my knowledge, that the information provided above is complete and correct, and that: | | |
| A categorical exclusion determination is appropriate for this project: | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Further environmental analysis is required: | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| PREPARED BY | | |
| Date 10/22/2019 | Typed or Printed Name and Title Anna Sattler David, Rural Liaison | Signature  |
| DENALI COMMISSION APPROVING OFFICIAL | | |
| Date 11/20/2019 | Typed or Printed Name and Title John Whittington General Counsel | Signature  |

Environmental Information and Documentation

Supplemental Instructions

Basis for Determination and Documentation

The basis for determination and documentation information must be traceable and establish the factual data to support the response to each question. Types of information to be included in this column are outlined below.

1. PRINTED MATERIALS These are useful sources of detailed information materials such as comprehensive land use

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1. **PRINTED MATERIALS** These are useful sources of detailed information materials such as comprehensive land use cooperative agreement minto2
Revised September 20, 2016

plans, zoning maps, city master plans, environmental baseline surveys, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements and studies. Information must be current and must represent accepted methodologies, i.e., not so old that changing conditions make them irrelevant. Citations for the material should include enough information so that an outside reviewer can locate the specific reference, e.g., author, document title, publication date, and page number.

Examples include the Record of Decision, Finding of Suitability to Transfer, Finding of Suitability to Lease, General Services Administration (GSA) Property Suitability Determination Form, Federal Property Information Checklist, Environmental Baseline Surveys, Preliminary Assessment Reports, Environmental Assessments, draft or final Environmental Impact Statements, and City/County master plan or zoning map.

Possible sources of the above documents include as appropriate, GSA, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the property owner, military base environmental office, local governmental organizations, local public library, and City/County planning office.

2. PERSONAL CONTACT Personal contacts are useful when the individual contacted is an accepted authority on the subject(s), and the interview is documented. Supporting documentation should include the name, organization, and title of the person contacted and the date of the conversation. Examples include EPA officials, EPA hotlines, officials from state or local planning offices and environmental offices, or an environmental officer of an agency.
3. SITE VISIT A site visit does not usually involve any testing or measurements. A site visit is an important method for initial screening of the issues, but for some of the categories it may be inadequate for final evaluation. Supporting documentation should include date of the site visit, by whom, and the supporting observation.

Pollution Prevention. The agency must include pollution prevention considerations in the siting, design, construction, renovation, and operation of the project or facility.

The questionnaire items on sedimentation and erosion control measures and storm water control plan are also pollution prevention related.



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